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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1953

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1953

*Health Department,
Rural Council House,
Lichfield.
August, 1954.*

*To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the health of the District and the work of the Health Department of the Council during the year 1953.

The vital statistics show the same trends as in previous years. Thus, the birth rate, at 13.5 per thousand population, resumes the downward trend shown since 1949. If adjusted for age and sex distribution, however, the figure is higher than the average for England and Wales. The death rate of 8.3 per thousand population was slightly higher than that of the previous year. Even after adjustment for age and sex distribution, however, the figure is still less than the average for England and Wales as a whole. The infant mortality rate, at 22.3 per thousand live births, was very satisfactory, being less than that of the previous year, and that of the country as a whole.

Notifiable infectious diseases were considerably more prevalent than in the previous year, the increase for measles being particularly large. Whooping cough and scarlet fever also, however, showed moderate increases in incidence. Fortunately, there was no marked increase in cases of poliomyelitis. There were 30 new cases of pulmonary

tuberculosis during the year, as against 24 the previous year, showing that the battle against tuberculosis is not yet won. The number of new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, however, showed a welcome reduction.

Progress in dealing with houses unfit for human habitation continued to be slow. In spite of this, more houses were dealt with than in the previous year. In view of the very unsatisfactory housing conditions existing in many parts of the District, it is to be hoped that considerably greater progress will be possible during the next year or two, both in demolition of unfit houses and in repair of houses capable of being repaired at reasonable cost.

It is sad to note that greater progress was not possible during the year on the many schemes of sewerage development awaiting attention. It may be hoped, however, that a period of greater progress in this necessary work may now be in sight, and that permission may be obtained from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the various sewerage problems in the District to be tackled, beginning with that of Shenstone.

Lastly, I would, as in previous years, express my thanks to the members of the Council, Officers in other departments of the Council, and to the staff of the Health Department for their continued help and co-operation during the year. I should like, particularly, to thank the Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector for their help in preparing this report.

Your obedient servant,

C. E. JAMISON,
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1954.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Vice-Chairman : F. N. BOWER, Esq.

and also

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Mrs. F. K. KIRBY	W. J. PARR	J. CLIFFE
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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

GEORGE LEEDER, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84,715
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43,180
Number of inhabited houses at 1/4/53 according to Rate Books								9,967
Rateable Value at 1/4/53	...	...	...	...	...	...	£194,628/10/0	
Net product of Penny Rate at 1/4/53	...	...	...	...	...	...	£751/12/5	

It will be seen from the above figures that the steady progress of recent years was continued during 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	299	269	568
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	8	15
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	306	277	583
Birth rate per 1,000 population	...				13·5		

Still Births—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	6	3	9
Rate per 1,000 total Still Births	...				15·2		
Rate per 1,000 population	...				0·21		

Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Male	Female	Total
						185	177	362
Death rate per 1,000 population...	...					8·3		
Death rate in infants under one year of age—								
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...					...	...	22·8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...					...	...	0·0
All infants per 1,000 live births (Infant Mortality Rate)	...					...	...	22·3
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

The following table sets out the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for Lichfield Rural District, as compared with the rates for England and Wales as a whole, London Administrative County, 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London), and 160 Smaller Towns :—

	BIRTHRATE		DEATH RATE	INFANT MORTALITY RATE
	LIVE	STILL		
England and Wales	15.5	0.35	11.4	26.8
London Administrative County	17.5	0.38	12.5	24.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	17.0	0.43	12.2	30.8
160 Smaller Towns	15.7	0.34	11.3	24.3
LICHFIELD R. D.	13.5	0.21	8.3	22.3

As will be seen, the more important figures, such as infant mortality rate and still birth rate, compare quite favourably with those for other parts of the country.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS

Year	Estimated Population		Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1948	34,340		17.82	9.11	37.58
1949	34,740		18.72	10.1	49.2
1950	40,340		14.5	9.3	29.01
1951	41,940		13.9	8.2	37.8
1952	41,970		14.41	7.67	33.05
1953	43,180		13.5	8.3	22.3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD DURING THE YEAR 1953.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	3	6
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	1	0	1
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	1	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	9	0	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	15	34
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	3
Diabetes	0	6	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	17	27	44
Coronary disease, angina	24	11	35
Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	5
Other heart disease	32	38	70
Other circulatory disease	8	7	15
Influenza	2	2	4
Pneumonia	8	9	17
Bronchitis	8	4	12
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum... ..	4	1	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	19	25	44
Motor vehicle accidents	4	4	8
All other accidents	8	6	14
Suicide	2	0	2
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	185	177	362

The total number of deaths shows some increase as compared with previous years, due to inclusion of certain deaths in institutions not previously included in the figures.

Included among the deaths due to "all other accidents" are three deaths by drowning. One of these occurred in a child of 4 years who was drowned while "paddling" in a river. Another involved an adult who fell into a river while suffering from an epileptic fit. The deaths also include four cases of death in elderly persons following falls sustained in and around the home, illustrating the risk to life which these domestic accidents constitute.

It is pleasant to note that, as in recent years, no death related to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Causes of death, with ages at time of death, of infants under one year, were as follows :—

INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 1 year	Total Deaths under 1 year of age
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Atelectasis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congenital Malformation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Prematurity	8	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	8
Asphyxia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Totals	11	—	—	—	11	1	1	1	—	14

It will be noted that the greater proportion of the deaths in this group now occur during the first week of the period. This altering balance is general throughout the country. These early deaths now constitute the principal hazard to the life of the infant, and one of the greatest remaining challenges to the medical and nursing professions.

HOUSING

I understand from the Housing Manager that 213 families were re-housed by the Council during the year in new houses, and a further 65 families in re-let accommodation. The waiting list for Council houses decreased, however, during the same period by only 19 families.

As mentioned in my introductory note, progress in dealing with unfit houses continued to be slow during 1953. However, demolition orders were made during the year in respect of seven houses, including four of the old back-to-back type, while the Council accepted an undertaking in one case that the house would not be used again for human habitation until the Council was satisfied that it had been rendered fit for that purpose. The list of properties dealt with is given below :—

HOUSING ACT, 1936, SECTION 11

PROPERTY	ACTION TAKEN
43, Rugeley Road, Burntwood.	Demolition Order made by Council, dated 13th March, 1953.
104, Norton Lane, Burntwood	Undertaking, accepted by Council, dated 18th March, 1953.
Two Houses : Tuppenhurst Lane, Armitage.	Demolition Orders made by Council, dated 23rd October, 1953.
Four Houses : Triangle Terrace, Hammerwich.	Demolition Orders made by Council, dated 27th November, 1953.

Towards the end of the year, preliminary action was taken to prepare for more extensive action by the Council under the Housing Acts 1936 to 1954, in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's advice to local authorities.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

My responsibilities under these Acts relate to compulsory action which may be required to enforce removal to welfare hostel or to hospital of persons needing care and attention, which they cannot receive at home. This action is, of course, reserved for very extreme cases. No such action was taken during 1953.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

As in previous years, a very full and useful laboratory service was provided by the Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories in their respective fields of activity.

Results of examinations carried out were as follows :—

Swabs :—

			Positive	Negative	Total	
Throat—						
From Practitioners	...	...	16	66	82
From Isolation Hospital		...	—	1	1	
Nose—						
From Practitioners	...	...	—	7	7
From Isolation Hospital		...	—	1	1	
Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus			...	24	250	274

Other Specimens :—

				Normal	Abnormal	Total
Faeces...	...	...	...	12	6	18
Blood ...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Pleural Fluid	...	...	...	1	1	2
Pus ...	...	...	...	1	1	2

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

No important changes occurred, as compared with previous years. Maternity hospital accommodation appeared to be readily available where required. No undue difficulty occurred in having patients suffering from infectious diseases admitted to hospital. Most of these admissions were arranged directly by the general medical practitioners concerned, but some, at the request of the practitioners concerned, were arranged through the Health Department.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The ambulance, home help, domiciliary, nursing and maternity and child welfare services continued, as in previous years, under the administration of the County Council.

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

VENEREAL DISEASE

As in previous years, patients requiring investigation or treatment of these diseases had to travel to the larger hospitals in Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Stafford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, notified by local medical practitioners during 1953, together with a record of previous years, for comparison :—

NATURE OF CASE	TOTAL 1949	TOTAL 1950	TOTAL 1951	TOTAL 1952	TOTAL 1953	MALE	FEMALE	AGE DISTRIBUTION	DEATHS
Scarlet Fever ...	47	59	132	42	59	31	28	Under 1 ... 1 1 - 2 ... 0 3 - 4 ... 11 5 - 9 ... 21 10 - 14 ... 10 15 - 24 ... 7 Over 25 ... 7 Age N.K. ... 2	—
Whooping Cough	51	97	244	75	101	47	54	Under 1 ... 7 1 - 2 ... 17 3 - 4 ... 29 5 - 9 ... 40 10 - 14 ... 3 15 - 24 ... 0 Over 25 ... 4 Age N.K. ... 1	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	16	1	3	1	1	—	15 - 24 ... 1	1
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis		9	—	—	3	3	—	5 - 9 ... 1 15 - 24 ... 1 Over 25 ... 1	—
Measles	322	371	454	109	690	360	330	Under 1 ... 15 1 - 2 ... 120 3 - 4 ... 160 5 - 9 ... 342 10 - 14 ... 22 15 - 24 ... 20 Over 25 ... 6 Age N.K. ... 5	—
Pneumonia	20	56	102	44	59	52	7	Under 5 ... 4 5 - 14 ... 2 15 - 44 ... 44 45 - 64 ... 2 65 and over ... 5 Age N.K. ... 2	17
Dysentery	1	2	123	23	2	2	—	Under 5 ... 0 5 - 14 ... 1 15 - 44 ... 1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	6	3	3	Under 5 ... 2 5 - 14 ... 0 15 - 44 ... 1 45 - 64 ... 2 65 and over ... 1	—
Erysipelas	4	1	3	4	4	2	2	Under 5 ... 1 5 - 14 ... 0 15 - 44 ... 1 Over 45 ... 2	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	1	5	2	1	1	Under 5 ... 0 5 - 14 ... 0 15 - 44 ... 1 45 - 64 ... 1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	2	—	—	—		—

As already mentioned in my introductory remarks, the incidence of measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever was greater than in the previous year. These fluctuations, however, are a normal feature of the epidemiology of the diseases in question. Immunisation against whooping cough was introduced during the year, and is now being fairly extensively given, both at infant welfare clinics and by general medical practitioners. No claim is made that this immunisation is as effective as that against diphtheria. It will, of course, be some years before results can be assessed.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year. Cases of diphtheria do occur each week, however, in other parts of the country, and show the need for a continued high state of immunisation, both of infants and of school children. The immunisation figures for the Rural District, at 36 per cent. for the "under-fives" and 69 per cent. for school children, are still not nearly as good as they should be, and show that an unduly large number of parents are still neglecting this important safeguard of their children's health. As mentioned in previous reports, all children should be immunised before reaching their first birthday, and should be re-immunised on entry to school and again at 10 years. Immunisations are, of course, carried out at infant welfare clinics and in school, and also by the family doctor.

Smallpox was also absent from the District during the year. Here, again, however, cases do occur in various parts of the country from time to time, though less frequently than in the case of diphtheria. These sporadic outbreaks are invariably brought in from abroad. The danger of this, however, in these days of improved travelling facilities, particularly in the case of air travel, is quite considerable. The risk of encountering an infected patient suffering from this dreadful disease at some period in one's life certainly justifies continued emphasis on smallpox vaccination. If all children were vaccinated in infancy and re-vaccinated on entering and leaving school, the chances of a rapid spread of smallpox would be much diminished. Vaccinations are carried out by the family doctor. Unfortunately, only about one child in four is being vaccinated at the present time, which can only be regarded as a very unsatisfactory proportion.

Six cases of food-poisoning occurred, as against none in the previous year. Three of these cases occurred in the family of a person running a residential school. Two of these cases quickly became non-infectious. The third person involved became non-infectious after a course of treatment arranged by her family doctor. Cases of dysentery, which present somewhat similar problems to food-poisoning, were, it will be noted, fewer than in the previous year.

The following table shows the number of cases of notification of infectious disease, per 1,000 population, in the District, as compared with England and Wales, London Administrative County, 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns and 160 Smaller Towns :—

DISEASE	ENGLAND AND WALES	160 C.B.'S. AND GREAT TOWNS INCLUDING LONDON	160 Small ¹ Towns (Res. Pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Cen.)	LONDON ADMIN. COUNTY	LICHFIELD R.D.
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04
Scarlet Fever ...	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	1.36
Whooping Cough ...	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	2.33
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.09
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	15.9
Pneumonia ...	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	1.37
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.02
„ (Non-Paralytic)	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.06
Food Poisoning ...	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.13
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	18.23*	24.33*	12.46*	28.61*	0.00*

* Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases notified, and deaths from this disease, during the year :—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 years	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65 years	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	2	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
Totals ...	15	15	2	1	3	3	—	—

As noted in my introduction, the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis has, unfortunately, risen, as compared with the previous year, though new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were satisfactorily reduced.

Patients suffering from tuberculosis were admitted to Hospitals and Sanatoria as follows :—

Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	5
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Outwoods Hospital, Burton	...	...	...	...	2
Newcastle Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	2
Children's Hospital, Birmingham	...	...	...	...	2
Little Bromwich Hospital, Birmingham	...	...	...	...	1
Burton Infirmary	...	...	...	...	1
Hammerwich Cottage Hospital	...	...	...	...	1

As mentioned in my last report, domestic assistance is arranged in appropriate cases, and patients requiring housing priority are brought to the notice of the Housing Committee of the Council. General nursing supervision is maintained by a tuberculosis health visitor, employed by the County Council, who sees that any advice given by the Chest Physician is carried out.

The following table shows the number of new cases of, and deaths from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis last year, as compared with earlier years :—

YEAR	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1935	29	6	14	2
1936	22	2	14	—
1937	16	11	17	2
1938	14	11	Figures not	available
1939	19	9	Figures not	available
1940	25	5	Figures not	available
1941	22	4	14	5
1942	12	6	14	7
1943	15	2	11	3
1944	21	4	14	2
1945	11	3	7	4
1946	19	6	11	2
1947	22	7	11	3
1948	22	6	6	1
1949	21	5	3	—
1950	20	12	5	2
1951	18	9	6	1
1952	24	10	3	2
1953	30	3	6	—

Unfortunately, it cannot be said that there is, as yet, any very great improvement in the purity of milk, one of the major factors in the spread of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. In fact, the organisms of tuberculosis were found on 19 occasions during the year in milk produced in the District. The necessary action was, of course, taken to require heat-treatment of the milk from each herd so affected, until such time as the infected cow had been removed from the herd by the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, for destruction under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The action taken in relation to milk produced in the District and found to contain the organisms of tuberculosis has been detailed in my last paragraph. Apart from these occasions, routine sampling of milk produced in the District, sampled by the County Council's Sampling Officer, produced the following results :—

**MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949
RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF MILK, 1953**

Grade of Milk	DETAILS (AND SIGNIFICANCE) OF TESTS							
	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Efficient Pasteurisa- tion)		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisa- tion)		Biological (Tuber- culosis)	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Pos.
T.T.	18	2	—	—	—	—	14	—
Accredited	20	1	—	—	—	—	17	—
T.T. (Past.)	42	2	45	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	43	1	44	—	—	—	6	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—
Undesignated	83	24	—	—	—	—	90	1
Totals	206	30	89	—	29	—	127	1

It will be seen that the results of pasteurisation and sterilisation were uniformly good, but that the cleanliness test revealed an unsatisfactory condition on 30 occasions. The responsibility for investigating the farm premises concerned lies with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The following information is given by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer to Staffordshire County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority for the District, regarding the results of samples taken in the District during 1953 :—

Nature of Food	Number of Samples Taken	Findings on Examination
MILK :		
Milk	31	Genuine
Milk, Pasteurised	16	Genuine
Milk, Tuberculin Tested	1	Genuine
Milk, Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	8	Genuine
Milk, Channel Islands, Pasteurised	2	Genuine
Milk, Sterilised	9	Genuine
GENERAL FOODS :		
Ice Cream, Iced Lollies, Lemonade Powder, Pineapple Crush, Ribena, Butter, Cooking Fat, Virol, Mar- garine, Devon Cream, Suet-Beef, Mincemeat, Whisky, Gin, Hors d'Oeuvres, Cream, Pork Sausage, Shredded Beef Suet, Glace Cherries, Jam—Blackcurrant, Orange Marma- lade	26	Genuine

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

PREMISES	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	3	—	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	16	3	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	19	3	—

2. Defects Found and Action Taken

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	In respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	3	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Conveniences Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
No certificate as to means of escape in case of fire	3	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	6	3	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS

(Prepared by J. G. RIMAND, Esq., M.I.MUN.E., *Engineer and Surveyor*)

Generally throughout the district disposal works have been well maintained and kept in condition by the workmen employed by you. Final effluents have been below the standard of recent years : this, in my opinion, is due to the effect that household detergents now used as a substitute for soap are having on the process of sewage purification. Investigations are being made with a view to overcoming this problem, but up to the present same have not been successful.

Alrewas.—The sewage disposal works at Alrewas is working satisfactorily but the flow from the Village has increased, due to the erection of new houses, and the works is now working to capacity. Plans will be prepared to cover the necessary extensions to the works, to deal with future development.

In the village of Fradley the general sewerage system is unsatisfactory and steps will have to be taken at a later date to connect either to the Alrewas system or to provide a separate disposal works.

Armitage and Longdon.—The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for these parishes is completed, and is working very satisfactorily. A large number of houses have been connected to the new sewers and, in consequence, conditions have considerably improved. The small sewage disposal works at Armitage is now giving an improved effluent, but as there has been extensive building since the war in the area it serves, its reserve capacity has been absorbed, and consideration may have to be given in the near future to its being replaced with a pumping plant, discharging into the new disposal works.

Brindley Heath.—A new disposal works is being constructed to deal with the housing development at Brindley Heath Road and the adjoining Pit Head Baths. This should be operating during the summer.

The existing works at Brindley Village will be abandoned as soon as the Village is demolished.

The works at Penkridge Bank is working satisfactorily.

Burntwood.—The pumping station at Cannock Road is working satisfactorily, but the Peter's Lane, Edial, disposal works are in need of enlargement to deal with the increased flow and the large quantity of storm water received, together with improvements in the methods of sludge disposal. This matter will have to be given serious attention in the very near future.

Chasetown.—The works at Chasetown are giving satisfactory service having regard to the large housing development at Oakdene, but same will have to be overhauled and some minor improvements carried out in order to give a satisfactory effluent with the much increased flow. Approval has been given by the Council for this work to be carried out during 1954.

Clifton Campville.—The sewerage system of this village is very inadequate. I have, however, constructed a tank and filter bed as a temporary measure, and this has resulted in a considerable improvement in the discharge from the local sewers.

Colton.—Conditions show little change in this parish, but some attention will be needed to the main sewer and the disposal works in the next few years.

Curborough and Elmhurst.—The pumping station and disposal works near to the outfall of the sewer in the Elmhurst portion of the parish, whilst effecting a considerable improvement, has at times discharged an effluent below standard. Investigations are proceeding with a view to rectifying same.

Drayton Bassett.—The pumping station and disposal works constructed to deal with the sewage from the Council's housing estate is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage of the village, however, is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken in the future to deal with same.

Edingale.—The small pumping station and disposal works, constructed to deal with the Council houses, is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage system of the village, however, is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken at a very early date to put this in order.

Fazeley.—The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee, passing from the main sewer in Watling Street, under the canal, to Tamworth. Considerable development has taken place at Mile Oak, and the main sewer is inadequate. I prepared a scheme shortly before the war for providing a new sewer to relieve the flow, and the construction of a new disposal works, but this has had to be deferred, owing to the war. Since the war, a sewage pumping station has been constructed at Brookend, Fazeley, to deal with the sewage from the housing estate. This is working satisfactorily.

Hammerwich.—The Watling Street disposal works is working fairly satisfactorily, and the work carried out during the year to one of the bacteria beds has resulted in an improved effluent. The remaining bed is to be overhauled during the coming year.

A scheme is now being prepared to deal with Newtown, which will mean the construction of a small disposal works.

Hamstall Ridware.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village, but, in view of the present conditions, it appears unlikely that same will be carried out for some little time.

Harlaston.—An electric pump is to be installed during the coming year, which should mean an improved effluent.

Hopwas.—These works, which were re-constructed before the war, are working satisfactorily.

Kings Bromley.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a small disposal works, but, as in the case of Hamstall Ridware, it appears unlikely that same will be carried out for some little time. In the meantime, the tank constructed as a temporary measure at the sewer outfall is working satisfactorily.

Mavesyn Ridware.—The small pumping station and disposal plants constructed in Hill Ridware and Blithbury, in order to deal with the sewage from the Council houses, are working satisfactorily. The general sewerage position of Hill Ridware is, however, unsatisfactory, and will have to be dealt with in the near future.

Shenstone.—The disposal works is now so badly overloaded as to possibly cause a complete breakdown. A scheme is under consideration which will provide for a modern works on a new site. The pumping stations at Lynn Lane and Wood End are working satisfactorily. The disposal works at Lynn is working reasonably satisfactorily. The disposal works at Little Aston are giving a satisfactory effluent, even though they are working practically to capacity. The question of the enlargement of these works is under consideration with a view to dealing with a portion of the Aldridge Urban District.

Streethay.—These works were re-constructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. Camp. A modern bacteria bed and humus tanks have been provided, and these are working satisfactorily.

Swinfen and Packington.—The disposal works at Botany Bay, to deal with the Council Housing Estate, is working very satisfactorily.

Wall.—The disposal works for this village is working satisfactorily and most of the village is now connected. The Muckley Corner end of the Parish will, however, need attention in the future. I have prepared proposals for same being connected to the extension proposed for Hammerwich, in order that this will be dealt with at the Peter's Lane disposal works.

Wigginton.—Conditions, in the portion of Wigginton village which is sewered, are quite good, the disposal being carried out by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee.

Whittington.—The disposal works in this village is working satisfactorily. Consideration, however, would have to be given, in the not-so-distant future, for the modernising of same.

Elford, Gentleshaw, Hints and Weeford.—There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in these parishes, which have been considered, along with the remainder of the district, by the Sub-Committee, whose report has been presented. This report makes certain recommendations as to the order of the priority in which the works detailed in it shall be carried out, and steps are being taken to implement the Committee's decision.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the District for 1953.

Housing conditions generally still continues to be the main work of the Department, but unfortunately this report will not indicate any large scale improvement of the situation. It has, however, been possible to further the policy of securing the demolition of some properties that are totally unfit for habitation.

As this report is being prepared, it is evident that a general change is taking place in the housing drive of the country as a whole. A greater degree of emphasis is being placed on the need for securing improvements and repairs to existing houses, and the programme of new house construction will continue with particular regard to the needs of those people living in houses that are considered to be unfit for further habitation. There will be much work to be done in this District when the proposed legislation is passed by the Government.

Food inspection took up an increasing amount of your Sanitary Inspectors' time, particularly following the Ministry of Food bringing into use a modern slaughterhouse in the District as a pig-killing centre.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff, for their support and assistance at all times throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE LEEDER,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

August, 1954.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Parishes of Fazeley and Wigginton and part of the Parish of Drayton Bassett are supplied by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Board.

Part of the Parish of Colton is supplied with water purchased by the Council from the Rugeley Urban District Council.

The Parish or parts thereof, of Alrewas, Armitage, Brindley Heath, Burntwood, Clifton Campville, Colton, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Farewell and Chorley, Fisherwick, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Harlaston, Hints, Kings Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen and Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Whittington, Weeford and Wall, are supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

One further small mains extension to serve a smallholding and six cottages at Fradley was completed during the year. There are now no large aggregation of houses in the District which require a mains water supply, and the Council have cause to view the position with considerable satisfaction.

In my last report mention was made in connection with an unsatisfactory sample of water from a swimming pool available to the public, and I stated that a chlorinating unit was to be installed. This unit was fitted during the year, and subsequent samples indicated an improvement in the condition of the swimming pool water, but further adjustments were necessary to the chlorinating plant. Due to inclement weather conditions, the use of the pool was discontinued before a final satisfactory result could be obtained. The position will continue to be kept under careful observation.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for the following information relative to the piped water supplies of the District :—

- “ 1. The water supply during 1953 has been satisfactory in (a) quality, (b) quantity.
2. The supply to the Lichfield Rural District is derived from eleven pumping stations which supply not only the Rural District but other areas as well. Regular samples are examined both bacteriologically and chemically from all stations pumping to supply, and where treatment is carried out bacteriological examinations are also made of the raw waters. Samples are examined regularly from the service reservoir at Gentleshaw as well as from various taps and hydrants within the area. During the year 39 samples from Gentleshaw Reservoir were all free from coliform bacteria. Out of a total of 181 samples taken from scattered points in the District, 169 were free from all types of coliform bacteria and of the remaining twelve, eleven contained aerogenes or intermediate or irregular bacteria. Owing to the number of supplying stations,

the complexity of distribution, and the relatively large area involved, wide variations in the chemical composition of the waters supplied are found. Thus, during 1953 the hardness of the water at the following places averaged—

114 parts per million at Chase Terrace.

198 parts per million at Clifton Campville.

270 parts per million at Fradley Aerodrome.

206 parts per million at Hamstall Ridware.

216 parts per million at Little Aston.

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency and 142 tap samples examined during 1953 were all free from any definite quantities of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations but this is largely precautionary. In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination of the affected fitting or structure is carried out and special apparatus and staff are available for the purpose. New mains are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. (a) The number of dwelling houses supplied direct at 31st December, 1953, was 8,168, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 3.75 persons per house, was 30,630.
(b) The number of houses supplied by means of standpipes at the end of 1953 was 51, or an estimated population of 191 persons served by this means, based on the average of 3.75 persons per house."

This report shows a reduction in the number of houses supplied by means of standpipes from 65 in 1952 to 51 in 1953. This is an indication of the general improvement throughout the District in securing a piped water supply to each house.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1953-31st March, 1954

The Council's Public Cleansing Service has been maintained throughout the year and all houses have received a regular weekly service. The cost of the service, so far as can be accurately estimated pending balance of the Council's accounts for the year under review, amounted to £19,100.

As mentioned in my report for 1952, the Council approved the provision of an additional 10 cubic yard refuse vehicle, and this was brought into service in September, 1953.

Land used by the Council for the disposal of refuse is kept under constant inspection. Any evidence of infestation by rats, crickets or other vermin are dealt with as a matter of urgency, and there has been no occasion in the year when any serious degree of nuisance has been caused by the tipping of refuse.

The Council have purchased nine acres of low-lying land adjacent to the existing refuse tip at Fazeley, which has only a very limited period before it is completely full, and tipping will continue on this land. In their consideration of this matter the Council approved proposals that a modified form of controlled tipping should be undertaken in respect of various tips in use throughout the District.

HOUSING

(a) Repairs to Houses

Extensive works of maintenance and reconditioning of houses under the provisions of the Public Health Act and Housing Acts are still hampered by low rents and the reticence of building contractors to tender for work of this nature. It has only been possible to take definite action in respect of those essential repairs necessary to remedy serious nuisances.

The following table indicates the extent to which defects were remedied during the year :—

Defective or insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	39
Defective, insufficient or obstructed drainage	...	...	37
Defective roofs, spouting, external brickworks, etc.	...	...	92
Insufficient or defective light or ventilation	...	...	1
Dampness	...	...	15
Water supply	...	...	8
Offensive accumulations	...	...	3
Overcrowding	...	...	7
Defective plaster, floors and other internal defects	...	...	147
Defective ashbins	...	...	13
Defective paving	...	...	3
Vermin and rat infestation	...	...	42
Miscellaneous	...	...	11
In addition, nuisances were abated as follows :—			
Refuse tips	...	...	3
River and stream pollution	...	...	1

(b) Demolition or Closing of Unfit Houses

During the year the Health Committee considered official representations by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of seven properties which were found to be unfit for habitation under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Demolition Orders were made in respect of six of the houses, and in the remaining case the Committee accepted an undertaking from the owner that the house would not be used for human habitation until it had been rendered fit for that purpose. In every case the occupants were re-housed by the Council.

Towards the close of the year detailed inspections were commenced of a block of 29 houses in the Parish of Fazeley, with a view to their being represented for action by the Council under the provisions of Section 25, Housing Act, 1936. It is anticipated that a more complete report will be available for the Annual Report of 1954.

(c) Provision of New Houses

The Council have continued their progress in the construction of new houses. The following table gives details of the progress made from 1st April, 1945, to 31st December, 1953 :—

	Under Construction	Completed	Temporary Houses
By Private Building ...	36	212	—
By Council	212	1,135	146

In the letting of these new houses every consideration is given by the Council to representations made by the Health Department on behalf of families occupying overcrowded or seriously unsuitable houses.

(d) Squatters

The condition of the hutments on portions of the R.A.F. Camp at Brindley Heath remain much the same as a year ago. It is hoped that the Council's proposals to erect a new housing site in the vicinity will enable at least one section of the squatters' camp to be completely closed, and that in due course all the occupants will be housed under improved conditions.

(e) Houses Occupied Under Temporary Licence

Since my report last year two of the four houses which are the subject of Demolition Orders and let under licence authorised by the Ministry of Health, became void, and the opportunity was taken to effect their demolition. The remaining two houses are being maintained in reasonable condition, and no great urgency is felt in respect of them.

(f) Housing Act, 1949

The Housing Act, 1949, makes provision for Local Authorities to give assistance by way of financial grants to owners of houses who are prepared to carry out works, other than works of repair and maintenance, which add to a house amenities and conveniences normally provided in a house of modern construction. The amount of grant may be up to 50 per cent. of the cost of the work with a maximum grant of £400. There are certain conditions which must be observed, but nevertheless the Act is one which should be of great benefit to owners who are willing and anxious to undertake improvements to properties which are structurally in sound condition.

In the course of the year seven applications for improvement grants were received and approved by the Council, having a total grant payment of approximately £1,820.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The provisions of this Act have generally been observed by shopkeepers throughout the District. In a few instances verbal warnings were given regarding closing hours, but in no case was it necessary to institute formal proceedings.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's responsibilities under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, have been maintained.

No serious cases of infestation occurred in any part of the District during the year. Any complaints received are immediately investigated, and when necessary infestations are dealt with in accordance with the methods advised and recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The part-time rodent operator has made 188 visits in the course of the year, and the amount received as a result of the small charge made to occupiers of private properties for this work totalled £9 0s. 5d.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Meat and Food Inspection

The policy of inspecting casualty animals slaughtered within the Rural District prior to being taken to Ministry of Food distribution centres in adjoining areas has continued.

In the later part of the year under review the Ministry of Food took over a small modern slaughterhouse within the Rural District for use as a pig slaughtering centre. As a result of this it was found necessary to spend virtually the full-time employment of one inspector on meat inspection duties at this slaughterhouse.

The total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption amounted to $9\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

Details are given in the following table :—

(a) DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

All Diseases, except Tuberculosis :					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
CATTLE :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	4	16	—	—
	Offals	...	...	...	—	15	3	11
CALVES :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	—	3	1	26
	Offals	...	...	...	—	—	1	26
SHEEP :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	—	1	2	—
	Offals	...	...	...	—	1	3	6
PIGS :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	—	14	1	1
	Offals	...	...	...	—	3	1	6
Tuberculosis only :								
CATTLE :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	—	14	0	27
	Offals	...	...	...	—	8	3	18
CALVES :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Offals	...	...	...	—	—	—	15
SHEEP :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Offals	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
PIGS :	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	—	10	1	25
	Offals	...	...	...	—	17	1	6
TOTAL					9	7	3	9

(b) OTHER FOODS

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	...				—	1	0	27
Tinned Meat and Fish			—	—	2	16
Tinned Milk		—	—	—	8
Eggs	—	—	1	3
Cheese...	—	1	1	16
TOTAL					—	3	2	14

The following table of carcasses inspected and condemned is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health :—

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
Number killed	44	181	175	131	2037
Number inspected	44	181	168	127	2025
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	17	4	3	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	100	14	68	79
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	18.18	64.6	10.7	55.9	4.54
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	3	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	44	2	—	118
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	4.54	25.9	1.19	—	6.12

(b) Ice Cream Premises

Of the five premises mentioned in my last report as being registered for the manufacture of ice cream, only one now remains on the register. Three of the four remaining premises have confined themselves to the retail sale only of ice cream prepared by other manufacturers outside the District. In the final case the manufacturing machinery has been dismantled and sold. The one manufacturer now on the register is equipped to use a "Hot Mix" plant in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

During the year eight shops were registered for the retail sale of ice cream, bringing the total number of such shops on the register to 85. Ten samples of ice cream were submitted to the Bacteriological Laboratories, Stafford, for examination. The samples were graded as follows :—

Grade 1—seven ; Grade 2—one ; Grade 3—one and Grade 4—one.

All samples of ice cream were manufactured outside the District but sold locally.

(c) Cafes and Catering Establishments

Inspections of these premises are made from time to time, and conditions were found to be in a reasonable standard.

(d) Foodshops

In a few individual instances it has been noted that structural improvements have been made and new fittings provided to ensure that food is stored under improved hygienic conditions. The efforts of traders in this direction should be highly commended. A large number of shops are of the general type selling confectionery, groceries, greengroceries and other foods, and because of the lack of storage space they tend to become impeded with boxes, etc., and cause difficulty in being maintained in a clean and tidy condition. The provision of adequate storage space should be an essential part of future standards for foodshops.





